

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 4308

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TAGS: OEXC UR

SUBJ: EXCHANGES: CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS: PAG'S FOR 1976

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(C) MOSCOW 2884

1. IN MARCH TWENTY-SEVEN MEETING WITH EMBOFF, GOSKONTSERT  
OFFICIALS AGAIN RAISED THEIR AND MINCULT'S DEP CONCERN  
OVER TREND OF LATE NOMINATIONS OF PAG'S FROM U.S. SIDE,  
AS WELL AS ERRATIC AND INSUFFICIENT SUPPLY OF SUPPORT  
MATERIALS AND OTHER NECESSARY INFORMATION FOR TOURS.  
QUOTE SHOPPING LIST UNQUOTE REPORTED IN MOSCOW REFTEL (C)  
MEANT TO INDICATE TO DEPARTMENT CLIMATE OF TIMES PERMITS  
GOSKONTSERT ARRANGE TOURS BY APPROPRIATE AMERICAN PAG'S  
WHICH WOULD BE EXPOSED LIVE TO CONSIDERABLE LARGER  
SOVIET AUDIENCES FROM PERHAPS A WIDER CROSS-SECTION  
OF THIS SOCIETY. TELEVISED PERFORMANCES MIGHT ALSO BE  
SHOWN NATION-WIDE. THIS, OF COURSE, IS IN ADDITION TO  
GROUPS SUCH AS ST. PAUL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA AND A.C.T.  
WHICH WILL PERFORM FOR MORE INTIMATE AND ELITE AUDIENCES,  
BUT WHOSE AUDIENCES COULD BE BROADENED ALSO BY TELEVISION.

2. IN RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH CERTAIN SOVIET CULTURAL  
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OFFICIALS, EMBOFFS HAVE RECEIVED IMPRESSION NEW MINISTER OF CULTURE, DEMICHEV, IS CURRENTLY PUTTING LESS PRIORITY ON TOURS BY PRESTIGIOUS U.S. PAG'S THAN DID HIS PREDECESSOR, FURTSEVA. CERTAIN GOSKONTSERT AND MINCULT OFFICIALS APPEAR TO BE ENGAGED IN A COMPLEX STRUGGLE FOR AT LEAST DEMICHEV'S ATTENTION WHICH IS CRUCIAL TO THEIR OPERATION. EMBOFF HAS LEARNED THAT GOSKONTSERT IS NOT RPT NOT RECEIVING MUCH QUOTE SYMPATHY UNQUOTE THESE DAYS FROM THE MINISTER. GOSKONTSERT OFFICIALS ACUTELY AWARE AND CONSIDERABLY FRUSTRATED AT WHAT WE ALL NOW RECOGNIZE AS A DEFINITE LOSS OF GOSKONTSERT'S EFFECTIVENESS IN COMPETING FOR SERVICES SUCH AS EXIST AT PRESENT IN USSR.

3. GOSKONTSERT DEFINITELY APPEARS TO BE SEEKING QUOTE WAYS AND MEANS IMPROVE SERVICES REQUIRED FOR SUCH PRESTIGIOUS GROUPS UNQUOTE (STATE REFTEL B). WE BELIEVE THEY VYING FOR DEMICHEV'S (AND PRESUMABLY THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S) ATTENTION TO THE MERITS OF CONTINUED EXCHANGE WITH USA OF PRESTIGIOUS PAG'S AND NECESSITY SUPPLY THESE AMERICAN PAG'S WITH BETTER SERVICES.

4. DEPARTMENT'S LATE NOMINATIONS UNDERMINING GOSKONTSERT'S EFFORTS AND IF PATTERN CONTINUES, MAY RESULT IN EVEN FURTHER LOSS OF SERVICES FOR US PAG'S IN EMBASSY OPINION.

5. MARCH TWENTY-SEVEN GOSKONTSERT OFFICIALS AGAIN EMPHASIZED THEIR DESIRE ESPECIALLY TO MARK USA'S BICENTENNIAL WITH FOUR TOP-QUALITY TOURS IN USSR IN 1976. BUT THEY GENUINELY CONCERNED THAT 1976 WITH FOUR PROJECTED, AND AS YET UNNAMED, GROUPS FORBODES DIFFICULTIES FOR THEM AND THEIR POLICIES.

6. PER PARA 2, REFTEL B: EMB SUGGESTING LIST OF SIX CATEGORIES IN PRIORITY ORDER FROM WHICH DEPARTMENT MIGHT CHOSSE FOUR. OTHER CATEGORIES COULD BE CONSIDERED.  
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